

What is claimed is:

1 1. A process for generating metrics that measure use in a usage-based resource licensing
2 system, comprising:

3 receiving and storing in a data structure in a usage-measuring server usage data for
4 use by one or more clients of one or more resources using said resources and segregating said
5 stored usage data in separate buffers, one buffer for each resource used by each client; and

6 for each buffer of raw usage data of one resource by one client, using the appropriate
7 distillation program to convert the raw usage data into metric data and storing said metric data in
8 said data structure.

1 2. A process for generating metrics that measure use in a usage-based resource licensing
2 system, comprising:

3 receiving usage data for use of a particular licensed resource by a particular entity,
4 and storing said usage data in a usage data buffer assigned to store usage data for use of said
5 resource by said entity, said usage data buffer being part of a data structure in a usage-
6 measuring server; and

7 for each buffer of usage data of one resource by one client, launching the appropriate
8 distillation program pointed to by a pointer in a resource data entry representing the resource for
9 which usage data is stored in said buffer, said resource data entry being in said data structure of
10 said usage-measuring server, using said distillation program to control said usage-measuring
11 server to convert the raw usage data into metric data and storing said metric data in said data
12 structure.

1 3. A process for generating metrics that measure use in a usage-based resource licensing
2 system, comprising:

3 (1) receiving usage data for use of a licensed resource by a using entity, and storing
4 said usage data in a usage data buffer assigned to store usage data for use of said resource by
5 said entity, said usage data buffer being part of a data structure in a usage-measuring server;

6 (2) determining when it is time to convert to metrics usage data in said usage data
7 buffer in which usage data was stored in step 1, and reading configuration or pointer data which
8 controls which distillation program to use to distill said usage data to metrics;

9 (3) launching the appropriate distillation program determined in step 2 and using said
10 distillation program to control said usage-measuring server to convert said usage data, and

PATENT

11 licensing terms where necessary, into metric data and storing said metric data in said data
12 structure.

1 4. The process of claim 3 further comprising the step of repeating steps 1, 2 and 3 for every
2 usage data buffer.

1 5. The process of claim 3 further comprising the step of repeating steps 1, 2 and 3 for every
2 usage data buffer on a periodic scheduled basis.

1 6. The process of claim 3 further comprising the step of repeating steps 2 and 3 for every
2 usage data buffer after storage of new usage data therein is recognized by said usage-measuring
3 server.

1 7. The process of claim 3 further comprising the steps of repeating steps 1, 2 and 3 for every
2 usage data buffer storing usage data for use of a resource licensed under a particular provisioning
3 data item, and then launching a CSU distillation program to convert the metrics generated by the
4 distillation programs for each said resource licensed under said provisioning item into CSU units and
5 storing said CSU units in said data structure.

1 8. The process of claim 7 further comprising the step of using said CSU units to generate a
2 report or invoice from time to time.

1 9. A process for generating metrics that measure use in a usage-based resource licensing
2 system, comprising:

3 receiving usage data for use of a particular licensed resource by a particular entity
4 under license terms stored in a provisioning item in said usage-measuring server, and storing
5 said usage data in a usage data buffer assigned to store usage data for use of said resource
6 by said entity, said usage data buffer being part of a data structure in a usage-measuring
7 server; and

8 for each usage data buffer of usage data of one resource by one client, launching the
9 appropriate distillation program pointed to by a pointer in a resource data entry representing
10 the resource for which usage data is stored in said buffer, said resource data entry being in
11 said data structure of said usage-measuring server, and reading said usage data from said

PATENT

12 buffer and license terms from said provisioning item under which said use was authorized
13 and reading any configuration data which customizes the distillation process for this particular
14 entity's use of this particular resource and using said configuration data to modify the
15 formulas of said distillation program, using said distillation program to control said usage-
16 measuring server to convert the raw usage data into metric data and storing said metric data
17 in said data structure.

1 10. The process of claim 9 further comprising the step of repeating steps 1 and 2 for every
2 usage data buffer at a time or times determined in any way by said usage measuring server.

1 11. The process of claim 9 further comprising the step of launching a CSU distillation
2 process pointed to by each said provisioning item and using said CSU distillation program to control
3 said server to convert metrics generated by distillation programs linked to every resource licensed
4 under said provisioning item into CSU units.

1 12. The process of claim 9 wherein said step of reading configuration data comprises
2 reading some configuration data which defines the formulas in a spreadsheet program used as said
3 distillation program or reading some configuration data that is substituted into one or more variables
4 of predefined formulas in a spreadsheet program that is used as said distillation program.